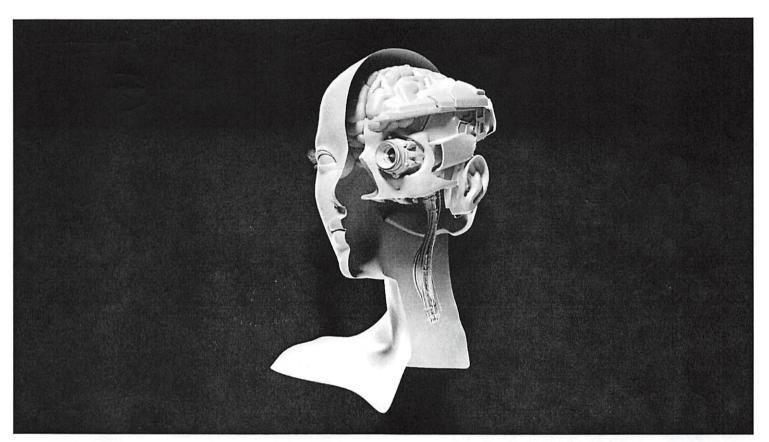
A The Atlantic

November 2018 Issue

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Eddie Guy

TECHNOLOGY

## THE PENTAGON'S PUSH TO PROGRAM SOLDIERS' BRAINS

The military wants future super-soldiers to control robots with their thoughts.

By Michael Joseph Gross

The Atlantic

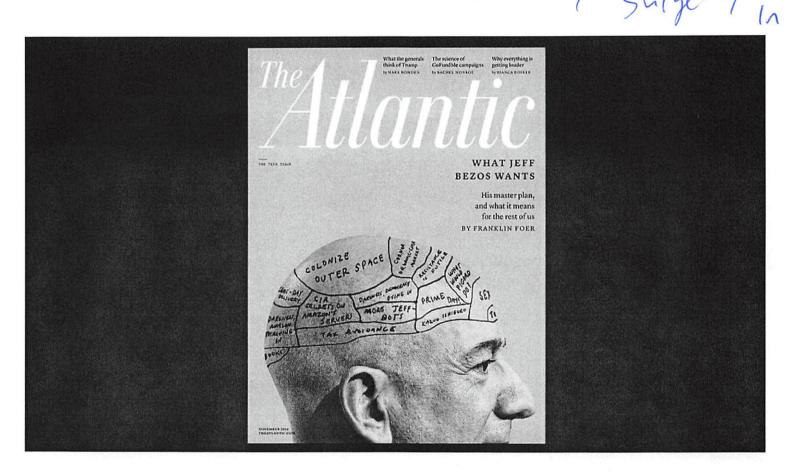
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PRESS ROOM

"Jeff Bezos's Master Plan"

In The Atlantic's November issue, Franklin Foer reports on the global scale of the

Amazon CEO's influence, and his ambitions beyond Earth



OCTOBER 10, 2019

In the 25 years since Jeff Bezos founded an online bookstore, the Amazon chairman and CEO has become one of the most powerful people on Earth. His company controls nearly 40 percent of all e-commerce in the United States. It owns 42 percent of the paper-book market and a third of the streaming-video market. By one estimate, Amazon Web Services commands almost half of the cloud-computing industry, with institutions as varied as General Electric and the CIA relying on its servers. A new headquarters will soon be erected near Washington, D.C., where Bezos already owns

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## The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

## The long and gruesome history of people trying to live forever

By Theo Zenou May 1, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. EDT

The Renaissance philosopher Montaigne quipped that "death has us by the scruff of the neck at every moment." He could have added: until, finally, it strangles us. But what if we knew how to escape death's chokehold? What if we could avoid death and live forever?

Immortality might seem like the stuff of science fiction, yet it's increasingly becoming the focus of real science. In 2013, Google launched Calico, a biotech firm whose objective is to "solve" death. PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel, meanwhile, has pledged to "fight" death. And last year, it was reported Amazon chairman Jeff Bezos had invested in Altos Labs, a company that plans to "rejuvenate" cells in order to "reverse disease." (Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

There's even a start-up developing drugs so that dogs can live longer. Clinical trials are scheduled to start this year. If they're conclusive, the plan is to apply the same science to people.

Immortality — or anti-aging, as researchers soberly call it — is the next big thing. Estimates put the industry's worth at a staggering \$610 billion by 2025.

From Silicon Valley to Cambridge, England, scientists are writing the latest chapter in the tortuous history of our quest for eternal life. It's a history that goes back a long way.

We've been trying forever to live forever. Our species' oldest story, "The Epic of Gilgamesh," is about that very longing.

Etched on clay tablets four millennia ago in Mesopotamia, it concerns King Gilgamesh, a "wild bull of a man" with gigantic muscles and an even more gigantic ego. After the death of his best friend, Gilgamesh is forced to confront his own mortality. "Must I die too?" he cries to the heavens.

In his grief, he transforms into a Mesopotamian Peter Thiel and sets out on a mission to "overcome" death. He fails, but uncovers the meaning of life along the way:

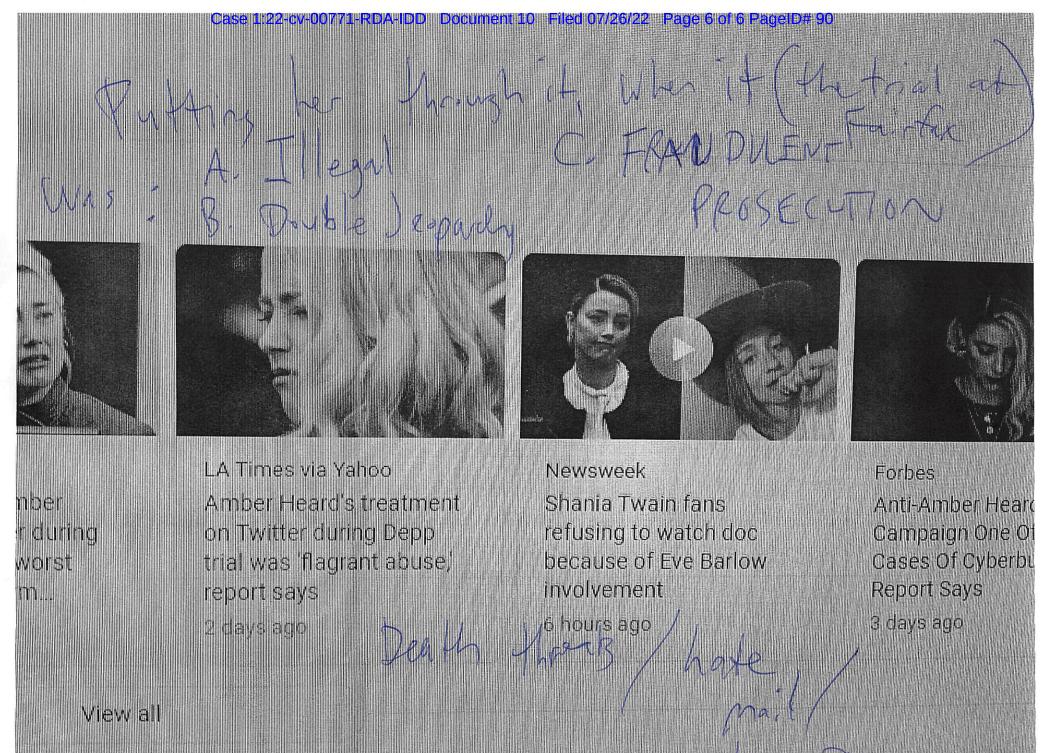
Humans are born, they live, then they die,

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The search giant is launching a venture to extend the human life span.

That would be crazy—if it weren't Google
By Harry McCracken and Lev Grossman

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